moon), but the stars of the sky (firstfruits) come down to earth in a ministry of power at the beginning of the Great Tribulation, and a timely ministry of testimony goes forth in spiritual and natural Israel, as the early fruits of the fig tree in the gale (Rev.7:4). God's wrath, coupled with man's inhumanity to man, culminates in the pouring out of the Bowls of Wrath and the destruction of everything that is not of God (Isa.2:19, 20). :15-17 - There is no turning to God in the days of the Bowls of Wrath, for the door will be shut (Lk.13:23-25, 2Thess.1:8-9, Zeph.2:1-3, Prov. 1:27-29), but there will be great anger against God as well as great fear of the results of His wrath. Who is able to stand before it? Too late they recognize He was indeed the Lamb (IJohn 2: 28).

- REV. 7 -

This section is still under the 6th Seal and it takes a closer look at the Church from just before the beginning of the Great Tribulation until its end. :1 - The 4 angels who stir up the nations (Dan.7:2, Zech.6:5) are given a hold-order before the start of the Great Tribulation. It is a holding back of disciplinary and destructive judgments, a delay in final destruction and waiting while the 'sealing angel' accomplishes a certain work. The 4 winds of the earth picture the world-wide effects of nuclear warfare, for it is the resultant wind action that brings large-scale destruction. :2 - The rising of the sun is the great outpouring of the fulness of God's brightness and power, the Joel 2:28 greater fulfillment and the angel carries the seal of the living God. See Rev.3:12 notes and Ezek. 9 on the Seal of God and the sealing. Either before or during the Tribulation, all who are to be received by Christ into His heavenly Kingdom and enter the New Jerusalem must be sealed on the forehead. The order of the sealings in Scripture is, 1 - with Christ's redemptive name, on earth (John 1:12-13, Jas.1:21-22, IPet.1:23); 2 - with the Holy Spirit baptism on earth (Matt.3:11, Acts 1:5, 8), which is the foretaste of the incipient sealing on the forehead for those who go on to receive the full impress of the mind of Christ and His preparatory work (Eph.1:13-14); 3 - impressed with the name of God, on earth, kept fully protected (John 6:27, 17:11, 23, Rev.3:12); 4 - with the name of New Jerusalem in heaven with a glorified body; 5 - with Christ's new name, in heaven, when ready to reign and rule with Him. "5" is the numerical signature of freedom, a release, for the Spirit has then done a complete work in the believer.

:3 - The 'earth' is the organizations of men, the 'sea' is the masses of people, the 'trees' are well-rooted leaders and rulers and therefore also nations. :4-8 - This sealing has two applications, primarily that of sealing the firstfruits group of spiritual Israel (Rev. 14:1), but also the later 144,000 group of physical Israel (the

ization that shall be destroyed by it.

Because the 'wrath of God' is to be visited upon man and upon his corrupt civilization by the destructive fire power and by the radiation from large scale use of nuclear weaponry, John describes this time as the great day of God's wrath in which few will be able to stand (Rev.6:17). The great day of God's wrath began when the first atomic bomb fell on Hiroshima, August 6, 1945, with massive destruction, but it will not be consummated until the 7 Bowls of Wrath are poured out at the end of the Great Tribulation. The delay in the full expression of God's wrath is effected by a hold order given to the 4 angels at the 4 corners of the earth who are instructed not to unleash judgment until the sealing angel has 'sealed' the servants of God in their foreheads (Rev.7:1-3). The 4 winds of the earth are used to illustrate the world-wide effects of atomic destruction, because the large scale desctruction is primarily by atmospheric shock wave and wind from the exploding bombs. The opening of the 6th Seal pictures the beginning of nuclear fire power, but it also introduces the great day of God's wrath, and in addition it envisions the final and catastrophic consummation, after the 'hold order' has run its course and the 'winds' are loosed.

The breaking of the 6th Seal brings on the rumblings prior to the great earthquake. Hag.2:5-7, Heb.12:26-29 tell of God's shaking the religious heavens, the financial heavens and all the earth (the organizations and systems of man) and all of these are a prelude to the great collapse of all that can be shaken. The shaking has begun. The great earthquake is both symbolic and literal; it is the total shaking and disrupting of all man's vaunted society and it is literal shaking of the earth. Both continue with increased intensity to the end of the Age, and so great will be the effects of massive explosions thru-out the earth that it shall reel to and fro like a drunkard (Isa.24:20). :13-14 - Because of the accelerations and gyrations of the earth, strange sights will be seen in the heavens. Also the abnormal movement of the earth during that time of great shaking will produce great windstorms which will add to the air forces from nuclear explosions, bringing violent atmospheric turbulence and upheavals. The violent atmospheric disturbances and the phenomena appearing in the starry heavens, because of the earth's erratic movement, will indeed bring that experience described as heaven departing as a scroll when it is rolled together. The great shaking and twisting of the earth's crust will also cause mountains and islands to be displaced. The symbolic content speaks of great spiritual darkness among the willfully rebellious (darkened sun) and great bloodletting by the rebellious nations (bloody

firstfruits of physical Israel on earth). It may be the '..., 000' ending indicates a fulfillment of the Spirit's purpose, a rest of the Holy Spirit in the matter, making the 144,000 symbolic of all those who have met the basic requirements for manifesting Christ. The 144,000 group out of spiritual Israel is mentioned especially, because those in it are the firstfruits (Rev.14:4) and because the Lord has a special purpose for it. These are not the only ones to be sealed, but they are sealed first because they are to precede their brothers into the heavenly Kingdom, that of Zion (Rev.14:1), and they must be made ready to be taken before the great hour of trial comes to try all men on the earth (Rev.3:10). Therefore, they are to be sealed with the seal of the living God before the angels loose the 4 winds of judgment, and the sealing is in or on their foreheads, their minds (Rev.14:1). A minimum number of the servants of God must be sealed as firstfruits before the judgments begin to fall, and then afterward others are to be sealed as they reach the level of qualification. After the 144,000 group of spiritual Israel is moved to the heavenly Kingdom for use there, an earthly remnant of the firstfruits is sealed and empowered (Rev.12:17) at the beginning of the 3-1/2 years of Great Tribulation, and then a remnant of the chosen seed of Israel, a Jewish group, is sealed for a ministry of power in the Jewish nation during the Tribulation (Mic.5:2-4).

The Lord has promised to come in this day with might and power to show the glory of His presence in the midst of His people. He has promised to arise with healing, both of disease and of unbelief, in His 'wings', literally extensions of Himself (Mal.4:2). He will give His people that which they desire, even the fulness of His glory in this day, so that there may be a shining among them like the radiance of the sun. Just as the sun shines and gives light and warmth to the earth, so shall the Lord be as the rising of the sun in the midst of His people so that they may give forth His light and His salvation in this day.

The Lord will cause His people to enter into new realms in Him and they will be clothed with His power and glory, even as the glory of the sun. The true Church, the faithful woman, is to be clothed with the sun (Rev.12:1) which clothing is a type of the Lord's spiritual power in the midst of the people. In this last day of the Age, the light of the sun shall be 7 times brighter (Isa.30:26) in the midst of His people. The people of the Lord who are trusting in Him and who are coming into that which He has purposed shall shine forth to the world seven times more glorious than that which has been seen. Seven is the number of the Church and pictures the true Body of Christ coming into the fulness of His purpose.

But Scripture also says that the light of the moon shall then

be as the light of the sun (Isa. 30:26). This pictures that time when a remnant of the chosen seed of Israel, even the 144,000 group of the physical descendants of Abraham, the Jewish remnant, shall turn to the Lord at the beginning of the Tribulation period. In them, light of the moon, which represents the reflective and distorted light of those yet under the rudiments of the law, shall become as the sun, which represents the light of the Christian gospel. Thus the 7-fold light shall shine forth from the Lord's specially chosen, anointed company which has been prepared by Him, but also that which has given forth only the meager light of the moon shall shine forth with the brilliance of the sun.

This will be the beginning of fulfillment of the binding up of the breach of His people and the healing of the wound (Isa. 30:26). For the Lord will bring forth a Body which is walking in the unity of His Spirit. and that breach which has divided His people will be bound up. They will walk forth in the full liberty of their God, and that wound which has kept them from walking in His full light and power will be healed. In the same manner, it shall be fulfilled for the Lord's earthly people, the physical seed of Abraham. The breach which was made when He cast His people off shall be bound up as He receives a representative number for His work. As they were cast off in anger, so shall they be drawn to the Lord with great mercy, and the breach which has kept them cast off from the Lord's presence for an entire age shall begin to be bound up. The Lord will receive them and the wound which came upon them because of the rejection of the Lord in human flesh shall also begin to be healed. As they wounded their Lord, so He wounded them, and they have wandered, unhealed, throughout this Age.

But now the Lord moves to heal and restore. Shall He not also heal the age-long enmity between Christian and Jew? Shall He not bind up the breach and make His people one in these last days of the Age? Surely He will take the stick of Ephraim and join it to the stick of Judah (Ezek.37:16-19). Surely He will join the house of Israel, now represented by the nations of Christendom, to the house of Judah, represented by that people known as the Jews. Truly He will bind up that brotherhood which was broken when His staff was cut asunder, when the anointed One, the Messiah, was crucified (Zech.11:7-14). The Lord shall once again take that which was beautiful in His hands and will bring it once more into its rightful place, so that the brotherhood between the house of Israel and the house of Judah might be restored. This He will do as He joins together His people in this last day, and it shall be a time of great rejoicing as His people who call upon His name are healed of their unbelief and as they go forth to proclaim His truth. That anointed company of overcomers which He is raising up shall speak forth the Truth in power.

The light of that day shall be glorious as the 7-fold light of the sun, or His chosen Body, shines forth, accompanied by the light of the moon become as the light of the sun. The result will be an 8-fold light shining forth in this end-time. It will be the light of full resurrection power and glory to bring regeneration to multitudes, as the Lord moves to bring forth that which He has purposed for this end-time. Therefore, rejoice in the great light which shall overcome the intense darkness, for great will be the manifestation of the glory of the Lord in this day, and you shall know the fulness of that which He has prepared and reserved for this time.

:9 - The scene is now in heaven before the throne, those sealed ones having been taken up to heaven, the dead in Christ first and then those still alive (IThess.4:16-17). This is the extension of the 6th Seal events into the Harvest time at the end of the Great Tribulation and the fulfillment of the promise to the martyrs in Rev.6:11. These are overcomers and the palm branches signify victory (the people carried them when Christ came into Jerusalem on a donkey - not at that time on a horse, denoting war). :14 - White robes (righteousness) are the glorified body attire of overcomers who have been translated to heaven (Rev.3:4, 19:8). While on earth they previously 'washed their robes' in the redemptive blood of the Lamb (Rev.7:14) and kept them clean. This is the Harvest group of overcomers having not only the gift of eternal life (Ro.6:23) previously given in the earthly realm, but also the prize of the heavenly calling (Phil.3:14) has been awarded to bring them to the heavenly realm. Again note that all the Seals extend to the end of the Great Tribulation. :17 - At the end of the period of troubles and at the beginning of the millenium period of peace under the rule of Jesus Christ, He is seen in the midst of the throne. Previously He has been at the right-hand of the Father (Col.3:1). Jesus is here on His own throne in the New Jerusalem, after the Great Tribulation.

- REV. 8 -

The 7th Seal continues on the subject of <u>the</u> Church. :1 - Immediately after the 7th Seal is broken, there is silence in heaven for about one-half hour, indicating a deferral of certain things and a holding back of action or an inactivity in this specific thing. Keep in mind that the 7th Seal does not follow the completion of the 6th Seal, but is opened shortly after the 6th Seal is opened, as all the Seals are opened in rapid succession over a short period of time. The various forces released under each Seal continue in their development to the end, producing an overlapping of the Seals. The 'silence in heaven' after the 7th Seal is opened is a direct result of the hold order

given to the angels in charge of the 4 winds of the earth (Rev.7:1). It serves to defer the complete fulfillment of the 'day of wrath' through destruction by nuclear warfare and its purpose is to give an added period of time for preparation and sealing of a minimum number of God's servants. It is during this period of silence or deferment of full atomic wrath that all of the 7 warning Trumpets are blowing, portraying events that are leading up to the final outpouring of wrath. And for this reason, in :5 there is a pick up of the events unleashed in the 6th Seal (Rev.6:12), just before the first warning Trumpet sounds. The fire from the heavenly altar is cast on the earth and the earthquake which follows is the same nuclear-energy earth-shaking described under the 6th Seal. This fire is cast on the earth as the first warning Trumpet blows. Although full wrath is delayed for a short time, the 1st Trumpet blasts out its warning that the discovery of atomic power and its incorporation into destructive weaponry will eventually affect all the inhabitants of the earth (the green grass) and completely destroy 1/3 of the earth's inhabitants and nations (trees) (Rev. 8:7).

Those in heaven stand in silence and in awe of what is about to be revealed on the forthcoming events that will lead up to the consummating of God's plans for His Church. 'Seven' is the number of His Church, and when this 7th Seal is broken, the matters concerning His Church are set in motion. The 7th Seal starts the development of specific stratagem that involves His Church; the 7th Trumpet announces His coming for His Church; the 7th Bowl brings on the wiping away of everything <u>not</u> in harmony with His Church.

THE SEVEN TRUMPETS

- REV. 8 -

(Trumpets 1-4)

Before studying the announcements of the 7 Trumpets, read Exodus 19 and the picturing of the new covenant given by Christ which is for us in this day. The promise is that He will bear us on eagle's wings during the trouble (:4). Note the conditional 'if' in :5 and the promise specifically for us as spiritual Israel in :6. In :10 and :11, the Lord promises deliverance on the morning of the 3rd day (to the Lord, 1000 years is as a day(2Pet.3:8) and we are to <u>be</u> ready by the 3rd day (the starting of the Trumpets), for the Lord will come down. A mountain (here Mt. Sinai) signifies a kingdom (His Kingdom). The people are to wash their clothes (soul-garments) before the 3rd day (:14). As the trumpet blast sounded, and it was a long blast, there were thunders and lightenings (judgments) and the Lord descended to the clouds near to the top of the mountain. The sound of the Trumpets grew louder and louder. Moses went up first to the top, a picture of the firstfruits being taken up

to meet Him in the clouds, and then he was sent back to warn the people of the earth with God's warnings. There was further sanctification of the priests and then Aaron (the glorious Church) later accompanied Moses into empowerment, picturing two groups to be used by the Lord in these end-days. There will be further notes on the two groups in the Chapter 11 comments.

The 7th Seal and the simultaneous blowing of the 7 Trumpets carry through to the end of the Great Tribulation, and at the last sounding of the 7th Trumpet the 7 Bowls of Wrath are poured out to cleanse the earth and prepare the way for the coming King. The 'day of wrath' is a necessary prelude to the answering of the prayer which Jesus taught His disciples to pray: "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven" (Matt.6:10). This prayer has ascended from the lips of multiplied thousands down through the present Age. The acceptance of such prayers is shown as being in the very midst of, and as a part of, the heavenly episodes which prepare for judgment. :3-4 - Just before the 7 Trumpets begin their blasts of warning judgments, John sees an angel come and stand at the heavenly altar of incense, having a golden censer filled with the prayers of all the saints. There, he was given much incense to add to the prayers so that he could offer the whole upon the golden altar which was before the throne, and the smoke of the incense mingled with the prayers of the saints ascended before God out of the angel's hand. This angel's ministering at the heavenly altar is representative of the high priestly ministry of Jesus Christ. In the symbolic picture, intercessory prayers (incense) of Him who always is living to intercede and petition for them (Heb.7:25) are added to the prayers of the saints and the combination rises before God. As a result of these prayers, the preliminary Trumpet judgments are set in motion, preparing the way for the final Bowls of Wrath. God does nothing among men without an invitation and this one is now accepted. When the earth is swept clean of its refuse at the conclusion of the Trumpets and the Bowls of Wrath developments, the way will be prepared for the full implementation of the Kingdom of light and love, to be ruled over by saints in glorious splendor, giving full allegiance to Him whose name is the Word of God and who bears the title King of Kings and Lord of Lords (Rev. 19:13, 16). Therefore, you too pray that the day will hasten, that your prayers also may ascend and fill the Temple in heaven with sweet fragrance so that God may respond to give His called-out ones rest from the oppressor and a full and abundant entrance into His Kingdom.

As each Trumpet begins to blow, it announces the start-up of events and forces which develop and continue to carry on through to the end of the Great Tribulation period. Each Trumpet sets in motion, at its in-

itial blast, that which is to progressively unfold on the world scene, as a result of its sounding. When the unfolding has been described, then we are taken back in time to hear the sound of the next Trumpet and see the events and forces announced by that sounding develop through to the end of the period. Then we back up again to hear the next Trumpet. Each Trumpet begins to blow a little later than the initial sounding of the previous one, but they overlap and all continue to blow concurrently, once they have begun. Each starts in sequence and continues to the end of the Great Tribulation, until a mighty crescendo is reached in the climax of all things. The Trumpets are for the purpose of sounding warning, remedial in nature, to call the people together for instructions and to call them to be ready to move into what the Lord shows (Num. 10:1-10). They are a warning that the judgment of all things is at hand and that the wind-up of the Age is rapidly drawing near. Coupled with a special moving of the Spirit, they are a calling of His people to get ready for the grand climax of all things and to call together a Body to go forth in power to reap a great harvest, anointed as Jesus was in His day to do mighty works. As this Body fulfills its mission, it will be made ready to cross over into the promised land to receive the fulness of that which has been prepared for those who are called and chosen and faithful. By mid-1967, six of the Trumpets had begun their soundings and they are all continuing. When the blowing of the 7th Trumpet starts, the final veil will be removed and all men shall see clearly what has been a mystery up to that moment in human history. At the time of the beginning of the Great Tribulation, the saints are seen giving fervent invitation for Christ to set all things right. God does nothing among men, except by their invitation. (As elsewhere stated in these notes, current prophecy, or Word from the Lord, is the basis for illuminating the symbolism used to picture the events. While the validity of the source has been checked, each reader also has the responsibility to ask for and receive the witness of the Holy Spirit that these interpretations are given by him.) In IChron.15:24, 7 trumpets blow prior to the Ark (symbolizing Jesus Christ) being returned to its proper place, and the picture is that of Christ's personal return to His place on earth at the consummation of the 7th Trumpet. But first, He must return to His rightful place as the Head of the Church.

:5 - <u>The First Trumpet</u>. In answer to the fervent invitation of His wholly dedicated people, the Angel (Jesus Christ) took fire from the altar and cast it down on the earth. Then there were judgments and the shaking of things and following these the Trumpets started to blow.

The casting of fire on the earth results from the discovery by man of the secret of the atom

and its mighty fire power. During and after World War II came the beginning of events unleashed by the blowing of the 1st Trumpet (July, 1945). The initial sounding of the 1st Trumpet unleashed the power of the atom for destruction and the blowing continues in its unfolding to the end of the Great Tribulation. As the fury mounts (Acts 2:17-19), the energy will raise water vapor to high altitudes by nuclear weapon heat-action and it will congeal into very large hailstones which will fall as a rain of destruction. These hailstones, as they fall, will be mixed with the fire from continuing nuclear explosions and with the blood of multitudes who will be slain. The great explosions and fire descending from above are the same as that brought down by the beast of Rev.13:13 from what man shall place in the heavens and shoot into the air. As this Trumpet blows, eventually 1/3 of the nations (trees-Judges9:7-15, Isa.44:3-4, Lk.6:42-43, Jude 10-12) are devastated, 1/3 of the earth's population is destroyed, and almost all inhabitants of the earth still in their carnal ways (green grass which is carnal flesh) (Isa.40:6-7, IPet.1:24) are to be scorched or burned by heat or radiation, in one way or another, all people except those who are protected by God, sealed by God's 'name'. Those who are under that covenant seal of their God do not come under the symbolism of the green grass, which is a type of all carnal flesh. The fact that over 1 billion of earth's people will die because of nuclear explosions does not mean that only this number of earth's inhabitants will be destroyed, for there will be many other types of destruction which will take a heavy toll of life.

These events described under the sounding of the 1st Trumpet, as with each of the other Trumpets, do not have their complete fulfillment until all of the Trumpets have sounded and have completed their sounding. The development and fulfillment continue to the close of the Tribulation period.

It is not necessarily important to have a precise date or some spectacular event to signal the initial blowing of each Trumpet, though these are not excluded. If one is watchful and alert and if one has the Scriptures hidden in his heart, he will be able to tell from the "tone" of the world developments that the Trumpets are blowing. The more prepared a person is in God's Word the earlier he will understand that they have started. The more practice a person has had in listening to the Lord speak to him (and this does take regular, consistent practice) the stronger will be the Holy Spirit's confirmation that the Trumpets have started blowing.

:8 - <u>The Second Trumpet</u>. The warning announcement of the 2nd Trumpet is that of a great mountain, blazing with fire, being cast into the sea. A mountain in Scripture is a type of nation or kingdom (Isa.2:2-3, 64:1-3, Rev.17:9-10) and so a great mountain would be a great or leading nation in the earth. Which nation on earth is great enough to fulfill this descrip-

tion? This greatness of which the Scripture speaks is not equated with size or land mass, neither with the numbers of its people. There is only one nation which can adequately fulfill this designation of greatness in the Lord's eyes, and that nation is the United States of America. But why will this nation, so great in its Christian tradition and ability to give direction and example to the entire world, be cast into the sea? It is written that to whom much is given, much is required (Lk.12:47-48). What other nation has been so blessed in scientific achievement and accomplishment in the undoing of the burdensome toil that man has known during milleniums of time? What nation besides America has received as great an understanding and enlightenment from the Word of God through many movings of the Spirit of God to bless untold thousands? But America has failed miserably in her stewardship; therefore, she shall be judged severely. It shall be a judgment which shall arise from within her own borders. Although America shall not escape destruction from outside, for many bombs and missiles shall fall upon this land later, the primary judgment upon America will be the turmoil and unrest that will arise from within, plunging the nation into a 'sea' of confusion and strife. The 'sea' is a type of masses of people in agitation and revolution (Isa.57:20, Rev.17:15). Already there are signs of this turmoil and unrest evident in many places and segments of society, for the Trumpet of judgment has has already been blown, and the inevitable falling of this great nation into a sea of revolution is now in its initial stages.

:9 - As a result of the mountain's fall, 1/3 of the sea is to become blood, and 1/3 of the creatures in the sea are to die, and 1/3 of the ships are to be destroyed. The sea is a type of peoples and ships are a type of local governments which are in the midst of the sea of peoples. A third part of the people in this nation shall be embroiled in such serious conflict that they will become a menace to the very life of the nation. The governing bodies, represented by the ships, will be so completely overwhelmed that law and order will be utterly disrupted in many states and areas, causing a chaotic condition unprecedented in the history of the nation. Violence will erupt in many places as strife and unrest increase among the masses of the people. One out of every three persons shall be involved in one way or another in such violent disruption that the very existence of the nation will be threatened. Then shall come the necessity of clamping an all-powerful dictatorship upon the inhabitants of this land, with absolute controls on every facet of life, but unprecedented civil strife will continue amid increasing peril from without. Only a great spiritual revival in certain parts of the nation will keep it from being completely inundated by the waters of internal turmoil. Truly, a once great nation shall fall in-

to the 'sea' of conflict, and it will mean the end of an era.

The great mountain that is to be cast into the sea was burning with 'fire', fire being a type for the people's inflamed passions with which they will become engulfed, the obsession in multitudes with burning desire, the unrequited and insatiable 'burnings' of lust, greed, avarice, jealousy, and hatred which will pit class against class, race against race, employee against employer, people against government, people against religion, and people against one another in one mad orgy of lawlessness and violence. This will be the direct result of the moral and spiritual decay which has been eating away at the vitals of the nation for many years. The 'flames' will be continually fanned by subversives well entrenched in almost every segment of society.

A third part of the creatures died, which were in the sea and had life. The sea not only pictures masses of people in turmoil, but water, whether in the sea or otherwise, is also a symbol of the human soul with its emotions and desires which is as unstable as water (James 1:6-8, Jude 13), when uncontrolled by reason and righteous judgment (Gen.49:3-4). The creatures of the sea typify the entire gamut of emotions and desires which 'swim' in the human soul. Usually an emotion or desire does not have 'life' unless it is stimulated or stirred up in one way or another, but when made 'alive' such emotions and desires have great power to bring about either evil or good. The picture presented is one of base emotions and desires being stirred up or made 'alive' for producing evil and destruction. Thus they become potential killers of the peace and well-being of others. Here is the meaning of the statement that 1/3 of the creatures, which had life or were made alive, died. The only way an emotion or desire which is stimulated into life can die, from a carnal perspective, is to be exercised until its strength is spent and it abates into silence. Thus it will be to a once great nation which has lost its moorings and to a people no longer anchored to the faith of their fathers.

:10 - <u>The Third Trumpet</u>. With the blowing of the 3rd Trumpet, a great star falls from heaven onto the rivers and fountains of waters, upon that which feeds the greater bodies of water. Since waters are a type of peoples, the picture shows the very leaders and fountain-heads of society being affected by this star, called wormwood. This star, burning as a torch and giving out its own light, is none other than the communist scourge of spiritual and demonic origin. Its light is that of false idealism which masquerades as true light (2Cor.11:14), but it is indeed a deception and a counterfeit. Because of its idealism, though deceptive, it is almost always the educated classes, the leaders of society, who first fall under its influence and succumb to its pro-

pagenda. This is why the star is seen falling upon the springs or fountains and upon the rivers which eventually reach the larger bodies of water. The masses of people are reached with the deceptive philosophy of communism only because the educated classes first embrace it in its propaganda phases. Once communist indoctrinated leaders gain control in a nation or among a people, the idealism, which was so prominant in their thinking during the initial contact with communism, begins to fade. Then the latent lust for power, subtly embedded in every unregenerated person, begins to raise its ugly head. Especially is this true among those who are taught, as the communists are, that there is no God. Without God, expediency and often unrestrained license replace truth and moral values. The result is Godless tyranny and ruthless suppression of freedom. Then it is that the 'wormwood' phase of the star is seen. Wormwood is a bitter plant that grows in the desert. The waters which become bitter represent the inevitable aftermath of a communist take-over. That which was presented as the ultimate in idealism and emancipation for the people becomes instead a bitter experience, as that which was promised does not materialize, and the lot of the people becomes even more desperate than ever. Truly it is bitterness in the waters, or souls of men.

In that 1/3 of the waters become wormwood, it is indicated that 1/3 of the population of the world will come fully under the communist scourge through the take-over of governments by leaders who are completely sold out to the communist conspiracy. Most other nations will also be affected by communism in its propagenda and revolutionary phases, but not completely taken over. Yet because of fear, almost all nations will seek an accommodation with communism in one way or another. And because of tremendous internal pressures, most nations will submit to coalition governments, with communists playing instrumental roles in the life of the nations and thus creating instability and continuous strife. The 'strife' phase is seen in the statement that many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter. Many men shall resist the communist take-over of their nations and shall die for their efforts. The 'great star' seen falling from heaven symbolizes the fact that communism is of supernatural origin. It emanates from the invisible realms of Satanic dominion and constitutes spiritual wickedness in heavenly places (Eph. 6:12). It is the result of Satanic influence and deception and it leads to ruthless suppression of freedom.

:12 - <u>The Fourth Trumpet</u>. Developments under the 1st Trumpet are to affect all the inhabitants of the earth with the unleashing of nuclear destruction. The 2nd Trumpet has its fulfillment on the leading nation in the earth. The 3rd Trumpet warns of the certain and complete overwhelming of the 1/3 of the in-

habitants of the earth by the power of communism. And another portion of the human race is affected by the blowing of the 4th Trumpet. The 4th angel has already sounded the initial blast and the stage is being set for the complete fulfillment in the days that are ahead on the continent of Europe. During the period of the 4th Trumpet's blowing, 1/3 of the sun, 1/3 of the moon and 1/3 of the stars are smitten so that a 1/3 part of each is darkened. It will be exceedingly dark when the forces unleashed by the 4th Trumpet take their toll. The sun is a symbol of Christianity and 1/3 of the sun being smitten indicates that the portion of the Christian world having its stronghold in Europe will be darkened as revolutionary forces rise up there to destroy the traditional forms of Christianity so long entrenched in the life of the people. None will escape the forces of darkness, neither Catholic nor Protestant bodies, as these forces rise up to put out the light of the sun and also to strike at the moon and the stars. It is not only the 'sun' which will be affected, but the moon and the stars will be darkened also. The moon gives the reflected light of the sun and so is here a type of the state, which reflects or gives support to the church. The stars are the leaders in both church and state who will feel the impact of these forces of darkness rising up against them. The church-state combination, entrenched in Europe for centuries, will be completely disrupted and the sun, moon and stars will be darkened to the extent that the church-state relationships, both Catholic and Protestant, will no longer be tolerated. Even the Vatican organization will be forced to flee to North America. Violent forces will rise up within the nations of Europe to completely overthrow the existing system of things, and the 'stars', those in high political or religious offices benefitting from the church-state relationships and who long have had favored positions in the existing systems, will be suddenly cast out of their privileged places. The 1/3 of the day being withdrawn and also 1/3 of the night means that the Lord is appointing one hour for a year and there shall be four years of extreme strife upon Europe. The 1/3 part of 12 hours is 4 hours and the day and night provide a double witness. The double witness into the night as well as the day indicates the extremity of the events amid the forces which are now arising to bring these things to pass.

:13 - After the 4th Trumpet has begun to sound, an angel flies through the midst of heaven, warning and proclaiming three woes to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the Trumpet blasts which three more angels are afterward to sound. The angel warns of the intensity of turmoil and conflict which is added with the blowing of each succeeding Trumpet. The intensity of the now developing world crises is a result of that which is being unleashed during the blowing of

the 5th Trumpet.

- REV. 9 -

(Trumpets 5 & 6)

:1-2 - The Fifth Trumpet. In the spring of 1965. the hosts of Satan began to swarm out of the pit where they have been confined, though this swarm was not the very beginning of increased demon population on earth. God has been limiting the activity of demons in the world lest man would be corrupted beyond measure, but now He is progressively loosing the forces of the pit in order that man may be tested in a way that has never happened before. We are now in the preparation for the final stages of God's plan for the climax of the ages, and He is making ready His heavenly army to contend with these forces of Satan which are to have free access to mankind, and that army will bring about the closing scenes of the ages-long battle which has been raging since the time of man's fall.

Although in times past, the number and activity of evil spirits has been limited to prevent God's plan and schedule from being subverted, now God is ready to allow the full number of Satan's legions to enter full reign upon the earth, in order to fill up the wickedness of this day. Much fear shall grip the inhabitants of the earth as they see the results of God's permitting the hosts of the nether world to come and prey upon the earth's inhabitants. The wickedness of man shall become great as he succumbs to the subtleties of the enemy, and great will be the perversions of truth and distortions of righteousness as these evil spirits make their impact upon an unsuspecting and unreadied mankind. Even now is the 5th Trumpet blowing and even now more and more evil spirits are being released from the pit. The numeral 5 is the number of liberty and freedom, and God is giving increased liberty to the forces of Satan for subverting the masses of the world so that God's plan shall reach its consummation in this time.

The star which had fallen from heaven to earth is Satan, the destroyer, Abaddon or Apollyon, (:11) who is a king over the invisible hosts of darkness and who is leading the evil spirits in their warfare. The pit is the place where most of the evil spirits, fallen angels, have been kept. These forces from the pit, the forces of Satan, rise as smoke to darken the sun and pollute the air, indicating that they will work through human agencies to corrupt the truth of Christianity (the sun) by all kinds of error and deceiving doctrine of demons in this day. This is now being fulfilled in the liberalism and modernism which has completely destroyed the true Gospel in vast segments of the so-called Christian populace. The pollution of the air is the contamination of peoples' thoughts with all kinds of filth and perversion. The forces of Satan are bringing great darkness upon the earth as they work to subvert the Chris-

tian message and work to pervert the thinking of people into ways of Godlessness and unbridled pleasure.

:3 - The creatures being released are likened to locusts, and locusts devastate everything in their path. The forces of Satan, like locusts, will bring a great scourge upon mankind until there is nothing left of material value. They are released gradually so their devastating will not develop more rapidly than is God's plan, and so that His purposes will not be precipitated too soon, but they will continue to be released throughout the 5th Trumpet's sounding. :4 - These forces from the unseen world are pictured not only as locusts, but they possess the sting of scorpions, and they are commanded not to hurt the grass, nor any green thing, nor any tree, and only trouble those men who do not have the seal of God in their foreheads (See comments on Rev.3:12). Note that there is a difference between being subverted by these evil spirits and being 'hurt' by them. The 'hurt' refers to actual physical harm or destruction which will come later (verse 10) as the spirits are given authority and the means to precipitate vast numbers of men into physical conflict. First there is a subversion during a period of time when the 'grass' and the 'trees', which are peoples of various classes, will not be 'hurt' or destroyed in great numbers (Ezek.17:24, IPet.1:24, Judges 9:7-15, Isa. 40:6-8, 44:4, 61:3, Lk.6:43). These people will not be immediately 'hurt', in their own thinking, because of inability to foresee the ultimate consequences of coming under the influence of the evil spirits; they will be a people deceived, believing a lie instead of the truth (2Thess.2:10-11). They will believe that the doctrines of demons, being taught through a perverted clergy in the perverted church systems, and the so-called new liberties which they are experiencing in godless pleasure-living are to their benefit and are a part of the glorious new way of life which man is achieving. The goal of the Satanic spirits is to enmesh the inhabitants of the world in delusion, in a sort of intoxication of pleasure-madness and libertine conduct which gives vent to perverted desires and ways. In the minds of the people, what they are experiencing is not a 'hurt' to them, but rather a new-found way of life. But what this delusion eventuates into brings about an abrupt end to the pleasure-mad ways, as symbolized by the scourge of the locust and the sting of the scorpion. However, the demons will not be able to touch those having the seal or nature of the living God in their minds (Lk.10:19), for God will protect His own so they will not be subverted by the devices of the enemy. Those not protected will be tormented as by a scorpion's sting, not because they love righteousness and deplore the wickedness coming over the earth, but because the condit-

ions of the world will become so desperate and critical that they will not be able to give full vent to their pleasure-seeking ways and to their covetous desires. They will want to escape, not from the wicked delusions of the times, but from the chaotic conditions which will be the inevitable result of unbridled license and lawless living.

The evil spirits shall 'hurt' certain men who do not have God's seal of protection, because these certain men are being prepared to precipitate the nations into war. These are men in high positions (trees) whose minds have been completely taken captive by the power of Satan and, through these men, the evil spirits shall eventually be able to hurt the masses (grass) through destructive warfare (verse 10). This prospect is evidenced by the evil spirits being seen both as locusts and as horses equipped for battle (verse 7). The locust was always one of the most terrible of the scourges afflicting nations of ancient times, bringing great devastation, and the horse has always been a symbol of the power to make war. Therefore, even though the evil spirits do not immediately 'hurt' the masses of the people, they bring them into the delusive intoxication of pleasure seeking. However, the masses will eventually feel the impact of the 'hurt' when it is precipitated by evil men in high places who are used by these same spirits to prepare the intoxicated people for slaughter.

:5-6 - The 'five months' for torment is not a period of literal months, but is a period of liberty or freedom of access to mankind. (5 is the number of liberty of access). Prior to the slaughter, conditions on earth will become so desperate that many people will seek escape through death, but, because of the fear that has gripped them, even death shall flee away from them. The torment inflicted by the scorpion's sting is primarily that of fear, a fear so great that men will even fear to take their own lives, though they will wish that they were dead. The fear will be a result of the chaotic conditions on the earth and the ugly specter of nuclear war then hanging heavily over the inhabitants of the earth. A double picture is shown here. The seeking of death is also symbolic of their desire to escape these things, yet being unable to do so, for death does not always mean a cessation of physical life, but rather an escape to a realm where the torments of life cannot reach. Therefore, it is shown that many will try to escape in this day from the tormenting effects of the activity of the evil spirits, but shall not be able to find a place of hiding, for all the earth shall feel the impact of the loosing of the Satanic hordes.

None will escape the impact of the onslaught of these evil spirits; none will be able to stand without God's help. Only those who have learned to look to Jesus and trust in Him and who habitually spend much time

seeking His face and studying His Word will be able to receive that help. He can uphold any man only insofar as that man will trust Him to do so and only as that man reaches out to receive His strength. These are fearful times, and only those who continue to look to Jesus Christ will be able to keep themselves from falling into the morass of wickedness and ungodliness which will engulf all mankind.

The evil hordes will whip up the masses of the pagan lands into an orgy of bloodshed unprecedented in human history, for great will be the slaughter in human lives as the masses rise up to clamor for their rights and seek to take things in their own hands. Frenzied mobs will rule many lands and cause all who oppose them to be killed. Many will perish in riots and revolutions as men seek to demand what has been withheld from them, for none shall be able to stop the surge of the masses as they rise up in this day. Great fear will grip the hearts of the people as they see chaos and ruin sweep across many lands.

Evil spirits will prey on every human weakness and bring out every base instinct in human nature. The lust and greed of man shall reach a level never seen before. Perversion shall be great in the earth as the spirits of the nether world torment men with unholy desires and cravings and as they prod them into avarice and grasping and as they stir their emotions to fever pitch with envy, hatred, malice and every other sinister feeling.

The blowing of the 5th Trumpet brings such a spirit of unrest in the earth as multitudes are tormented by every unholy desire and craving, and the resultant chaos will drive men to seek alliances with some kind of all-powerful government which will be able to keep order and peace in the earth. In this way, the groundwork will be laid for an all-powerful government to emerge which will promise peace and security to all nations coming under its domination. Thus shall the beast powers of Rev.13 emerge to control the inhabitants of the earth and to make them give allegiance to the god of materialistic force (Dan.11:38). Two beasts shall arise. The first has already had its <u>inception</u> in the communist combine of nations. The second is to emerge as a coalition of communist and non-communist nations which will seek to force a world socialist rule upon all other nations, enforced by a world police organization. They will try to make all men worship and bow down to that image which they will create, world socialism, which truly is the image of the first beast. Taking advantage of the chaos of the times, the 2nd beast rises to clamp a world socialist dictatorship upon the nations of the world shortly before the Great Tribulation starts, holding out to them the image of a planned order and economy which will provide peace and plenty for all. Due to the desperation of the times, the people will be ready to receive the promise of utopia

and will receive the mark of the beast in the foreheads and hands, giving mental assent to its image or idealism, believing a lie instead of the truth, and will be forced to work for its realization by giving the power of their hand to it. After it is too late, the nations shall find that they have surrendered their rights and freedom for an illusion, but they will be hopelessly trapped in a web of their own making. They will be unable to extricate themselves for the beast powers will have the means of enforcing their rule over all. The rule of absolute dictatorship will control people through work credits and statistical allocation of daily basic needs; no more pleasure seeking, no more satisfaction of desires.

:7 - After the men in high places are thoroughly prepared by their subverted ambitions for world conquest, then comes the war aspect (the horse) and great destruction, then they are 'crowned' to go forth into battle. The 'faces' of the locusts are the faces of men, the very men who have been prepared to 'hurt' the people of the world by their mad conquest for power. :8 - The locusts which had the faces of men also had the hair of women and the teeth of lions. The hair indicates their complete captivity to their desires (evil). Esau means hairy and he was captive to his evil desires; 'Devil' also means hairy; Samson, while his hair was uncut, was captive of good desires). The term 'woman' is used to symbolize the soul, which is the seat of desire. The locust's having the 'teeth of lions' indicates their absolute determination to gnash and devour, until they have completely conquered the world.

:9 - The 'breastplates of iron' show that they will persevere to the end, and not be turned back from their destructive designs. The 'sound of their wings like a roar of the chariots of many horses running to battle' indicates that they will engulf the world in destructive slaughter. The evil spirits shall do this through those men who have not the seal of God on their foreheads, but whose minds are completely taken captive by Satanic devices.
:10 - The locust's 'tail' indicates lies and deception (Isa. 9:15). It is after the horses are prepared for battle that the 'locusts' are permitted to 'hurt' men for 5 months, where previously they were permitted to 'torment' for 5 months (verse 5). The 'torment' of verse 5 is primarily fear of what might come, but the 'hurt' of verse 10 is actual destruction in warfare. The 5 months in each verse are not literal months, but symbolic of the freedom of action allowed the evil spirits to subvert and lead to eventual conflict. Once the conflict (hurting of men) has started on a global scale, halfway through the Great Tribulation, it will not let up until the consummation of all things and the return of the Lord in power and glory.

:11 - The king over the invisible hosts of darkness, which

are given freedom to attack the inhabitants of the earth, is called Abaddon, meaning destruction, and he is Satan who is leading the evil spirits in their war of destruction and devastation. :12 - The announcement that 'the first woe is passed' does not mean that the events seen within the 5th Trumpet's blowing have completely run their course, but it means that the forces released by the Trumpet's sounding are then past recall. What is then set in motion is as good as accomplished, the results are inevitable. Along with the two woes yet to come, the 5th Trumpet (the 1st woe) continues to mount in intensity until the end of the Age.

Already the agents of the pit are beginning to multiply on the earth and the die is cast for the inhabitants of earth. None shall be able to stay the hand of the Almighty, until the foment of evil has run its course and the fester of iniquity has finished its work. Many months pass while the forces of the nether world are carrying out their tormenting activities, but during these same months God shall move by His Spirit to bring a revival and deliverance in the earth for those who hunger for Him. A mighty spiritual power will be evident in the earth as His specially prepared servants go forth to confront the enemy with the power of their God. While the earth is seething with unrest under the tormenting influence of Satan's hordes, those men who turn to God shall find a great deliverance and a mighty victory in that day. Then shall come deliverance from on high as the hosts of the Almighty come to put down the forces of Satan and cast them into the bottomless pit from whence they came. Therefore, rejoice that you can know the truth which will set you free from all fear and which will give you great confidence and assurance for the days that lie ahead. Do not fret because of what has been revealed, for Yahweh-Jesus is with you to keep you and to protect you from all harm.

:13 - <u>The 6th Trumpet</u> began to blow June 6, 1967, during the 5 day Israeli war, and the events under the 6th Trumpet are now developing. Russia has moved into the Mediterranean and has entered concentrated negotiation with the Euphrates area nations. :14-15 - The 6th angel, who had the 6th Trumpet, was instructed to loose the 4 angels bound in the great river Euphrates. The 4 angels here are the spirit princes (leaders) who are the unseen rulers of 4 nations in the general area of the Euphrates River. Let's look at one possibility. Four such nations were bound together by the Bagdad Pact, in an attempt to create a buffer against the encroachments of communism. But soon that buffer will be dissolved or loosed and those nations will then no longer seek to contain or hold back communist subversion and advance. They will instead eventually become a part of the communist combine, and one or more will actually

be a part of the 'horns' of the beast of Rev.13. Although there may yet be four others, these nations were Turkey, Iran, Iraq, and Pakistan. Thus the influence of the Christian west, which was instrumental in causing these nations to be bound together in an anti-communist pact, will be destroyed in that area. This is one meaning of the statement that the 4 angels were liberated to destroy 1/3 part of men. The destroying here is not literal, but is symbolic of the complete elimination of the power of the two western Christian nations to keep the treaty intact, the two being 1/3 of the specific nations involved. The elimination of the 1/3 will pave the way for a communist take-over. It would take an hour and a day and a month and a year (close to 13 months) after the breaking of the pact (the loosing of the 4 angels) for western influence to be destroyed and the 4 nations to be absorbed into the communist camp, which is the beast empire. These two Christian nations are the equivalent of the picture of Isaac, who was 1/3 of the house of Abraham - the other 2/3 being the descendants of Ismael, son of Hagar the Egyptian, and the descendants of the sons of Keturah (Gen.16:1-12, 25:1-6).

:16 - Immediately following this, there is a description of the army which is also prepared to be loosed into great destruction. This is that army which will overflow, just as the Euphrates River typically overflows at flood stage (Isa.8:6-8, Jer.47:2). The number of horses (symbolizing the power to make war) and men, 10,000 times 10,000 is symbolic of the entire force of the communist empire in its quest to overrun western influence in the Middle East and to bring that entire area, including Palestine, under the banner of the hammer and sickle. The 10,000 times 10,000 is a multiplied witness indicating intensity of fulfillment. The 10 symbolizes world power, soul power, and the '000' pictures the completion of the spirit's purpose. Having largely gained dominion in this area, the mighty hosts of the communist world will be emboldened to press further into other areas, and other nations will be overrun by these hordes, a symbolic spilling over the banks of the Euphrates.

:17-18 - The vision was one of an army of horses and riders, and the horses had heads of lions. First the power of propaganda and lies will be used to overcome the nations of the Middle-East and then it is followed by military action and destruction which is pictured by the fire, smoke and brimstone of the modern war machines and their fire-power. Initially, there are promises of peace and plenty, but that which begins as lying propaganda and which destroys the Christian influence in the Middle-East will be followed by the military aggression of armies marching forth to destroy. Even the breastplates of the riders, seen as fiery red and sapphire blue and sulpher yellow, indicate the de-